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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168569

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NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL
S/S:O:LRMACFARLANE
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R 080213Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 168569

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO, IR

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF HOWITZERS TO MOROCCO

REF: A. TEHRAN 6617 B. AMMAN 3425 C. RABAT 3532
D. TEHRAN 6746

1. STATUS REPORT: IN RESPONSE TO RABAT 2751 AND ABSENCE OF REPORTS FROM TEHRAN CONTRADICTING OPINION OF IRANIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTED IN SAME CABLE, DEPARTMENT NOTIFIED CONGRESS JUNE 9 OF ITS INTENT TO APPROVE TRANSFER OF 16 M109A1B HOWITZERS FROM IRAN TO JORDAN AS FIRST LEG OF MOVEMENT OF THESE HOWITZERS TO MOROCCO. PERIOD OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION HAS PASSED AND JORDAN HAS PROVIDED NO-TRANSFER ASSURANCES (AMMAN 1537 OF MARCH 22)
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TO USG.

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2. FOR TEHRAN: EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO INFORM GOI THAT, ALL STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS BEING MET, USG APPROVES IRAN'S REQUEST TO TRANSFER, WHEN IT WISHES TO DO SO, TITLE TO 16 M109A1B HOWITZERS FROM IRAN TO JORDAN. (FYI. DEPARTMENT GAVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO VIEWS EXPRESSED BY EMBASSY TEHRAN IN REFS A AND D, BUT USG ROLE IS LIMITED ESSENTIALLY TO APPROVAL OF TRANSFER, INITIALLY REQUESTED BY BOTH GOM AND GOI, ON BASIS OF US WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY ITEMS TO

RECIPIENT IF THEY WERE AVAILABLE FROM OUR OWN INVENTORY. OUR APPROVAL IN NO WAY COMMITS EITHER GOM OR GOI TO FOLLOW THROUGH (WITNESS COLLAPSE OF JORDAN-MOROCCO PLAN TO TRANSFER 20 F-5A'S) BUT MERELY MAKES IT CLEAR THAT TRANSFER CAN TAKE PLACE WHEN IRAN AND MOROCCO HAVE AGREED ON MODALITIES. IN ANY CASE WE ASSUME IRANIANS WILL NOT AGREE TO TRANSFER UNTIL THEY AND MOROCCANS HAVE RESOLVED THEIR REMAINING DIFFERENCES. END FYI.)

3. FOR RABAT: YOU MAY SHARE ABOVE WITH MOROCCANS (EXCEPT FYI) INFORMING THEM THAT IRANIANS, DESPITE AMBASSADOR NAYER-NOURI'S COMMENTS, APPARENTLY ARE NOT FULLY SATISFIED WITH STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOM. (FYI WE NOTE DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION OF PARA 3, RABAT 2751 AS EXPRESSED IN RABAT 3532 AND TEHRAN 6746. PARA 3 SPECIFICALLY STATES QUOTE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS UNQUOTE. THIS APPEARS TO SUPPORT EMBASSY TEHRAN'S VIEW THAT THOSE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SETTLED. END FYI.)

4. FOR AMMAN: IF AND WHEN TRANSFER TO GOJ APPROVED BY IRAN, GOJ MUST TRANSMIT TRANSFER REQUEST TO USG BEFORE WE CAN NOTIFY CONGRESS OF INTENT TO APPROVE SECOND AND FINAL LEG OF TRANSACTION. KISSINGER

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